

Curriculum & Instruction – Student Teaching FAQs

Preparation

- [What is Student Teaching and what are my responsibilities as student teacher?](#)
- [How and when do I apply to student teach?](#)
- [What do I need to keep in mind while preparing my application documents?](#)
- [What information do I need to communicate to the Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office?](#)
- [Will I need transportation?](#)
- [How can I find transportation if I do not have a car?](#)
- [I have a disability. How do I request special accommodations?](#)

Placements

- [Am I guaranteed student teaching placements during the semester for which I applied?](#)
- [Can I arrange my own student teaching placements?](#)
- [Where can I be placed?](#)
- [Can I student teach in a different area than those listed?](#)
- [Can I change the area where I wish to student teach?](#)
- [Can I change my placement?](#)
- [How and when will I be notified of my student teaching placements?](#)
- [Is there anything I can do to speed up the placement progress?](#)
- [I know several other people already have their placement but I am still waiting for mine. What should I do?](#)

Other FAQs

- [What should I do if I am called by a school for an interview?](#)
- [Is it OK to work part-time and/or take college classes while I'm student teaching?](#)
- [If I decide to defer student teaching for a semester, what do I need to do?](#)
- [What should I do if I'm sick or have an emergency?](#)

What is Student Teaching and what are my responsibilities as a student teacher?

The student teaching experience has been carefully designed to be as realistic and as intensive as actual teaching. It is defined as a “full time, supervised, uncompensated experience.” You will have two student teaching placements each lasting 7 weeks over the course of one semester. As a student teacher, you will follow your host school’s calendar and not SUNY Oswego’s.

During student teaching you will demonstrate the skills and knowledge you have

acquired through your education classes and previous field experiences. Student teachers are also expected to participate in any required staff development including but not limited to Superintendent's Conferences and faculty/department meetings. Student teachers are encouraged to participate in afterschool activities, school functions, etc.

You will be supervised in your classroom by a certified and experienced cooperating teacher. Supervision from SUNY Oswego is provided by professionals who have been successful classroom teachers/administrators.

Assignments include but are not limited to lesson planning and adaptation, effective classroom management techniques, effective communication skills, strategies for working with special needs students, use of developmental and content reading, and writing strategies as part of the integration of the integration of language arts processes.

How and when do I apply to student teach?

The semester prior to student teaching, you will need to complete a student teaching application via Google forms. Watch for posters and/or check our website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for announcements for sign-ups. It is your responsibility to submit your application and all required documents via the Google application by the deadline given. You must also register for student teaching through myOswego during the regular registration period.

What do I need to keep in mind while preparing my application documents?

The Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office sends your application documents to school administrators and teachers. These documents provide a "first impression" of you and gives your prospective cooperating teacher an idea of your professionalism and potential as a teacher. In addition, some schools will not accept a student teacher if any errors are found in their application documents. Therefore, it is in your best interest to prepare neat and well-organized application documents that clearly present your experiences and accomplishments as a candidate as well as your ideas about teaching. Errors on any of your application documents detract from what may otherwise be a strong application. We have had applications rejected and returned to our office with mistakes circled by the individual who reviewed them! Be sure to visit [CareerServices](#) in the Compass Resource Center or use Optimal Resume for assistance in writing/reviewing your resume and cover letter.

It is also essential to keep in mind that in the world of technology today, your potential cooperating teacher has the ability to search for you on any social media. Please be certain that if a prospective cooperating teacher is to search for you, they will find evidence of what a professional candidate you would be in their classroom. It is a good idea to have someone you know search for you, who is not an accepted friend on social media, and make sure what they can see is an appropriate demonstration of who you are as a candidate. There are also privacy settings on most social media apps that you can utilize.

What information do I need to communicate to the Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office?

Any changes in your contact information, such as your name, address, phone number, or email address need to be communicated to the CPPO. Also, keep us up to date on any changes to your program or your academic status. Please notify the CPPO about any changes as soon as possible, either by email (cppoffice@oswego.edu) or by phone (315) 312-3098.

Will I need transportation?

Candidates are responsible for arranging their own reliable transportation in advance. SUNY Oswego does not provide transportation. The commute may be as long as 50 miles so plan accordingly.

How can I find transportation if I do not have a car?

Options candidates have for transportation if you do not have a car are:

- Taking a bus via [Centro Bus Service](#)
- Utilizing a transportation app such as [Lift](#) or [Uber](#)
- Carpool

Send an email to the field placement office at cppoffice@oswego.edu to obtain contact information for other candidates who will be placed in the same area as you.

I have a disability. How do I request special accommodations?

The Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office will notify you of your placement via email. Placements that are confirmed within 1-3 days prior to your start date will also be sent to you by email or phone call. Accessibility Resources Office is located at 155 Campus Center, phone: 315-312-3358, Email: access@oswego.edu

Am I guaranteed student teaching placements during the semester for which I applied?

Yes, if you are eligible to student teach, you will be guaranteed a placement. If your application packet is late, the Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office can't guarantee a placement for the semester you are applying. Be sure to get application documents in on

time! Final decisions for eligibility, appropriateness, and preparedness for placement rests in the professional judgment of the faculty and staff in the candidate's department who review candidates for eligibility for placement.

Can I arrange my own student teaching placements?

The Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office is responsible for making all experiential placements for teacher candidates. The CPP works hard to maintain excellent relationships with our cooperating schools; we abide by their placement procedures and comply with all school policies. Therefore, candidates must refrain from seeking their own placement; sometimes candidates can delay placement for everyone when they make an informal request for their own placement. Host teachers, however, may send a request for a specific student to the CPP Office and accommodations will try to be made. Therefore, all field experience assignments must be arranged through the CPP Office.

Where can I be placed?

We place our student teachers only in areas where we have established relationships with cooperating schools and have experienced, trained college supervisors available. We cannot provide college supervision outside of the areas listed below and therefore, can place student teachers ONLY in the areas listed.

While you cannot chose the specific school or district in which to complete your student teaching, you will be able to specify a first and second choice of area for your placements. The following is a list of areas in which you may student teach along with a general outline of schools that make up that area:

NYC: Includes schools in the Bronx and Manhattan. Note: You must complete a NYC application form.*

Oswego/Syracuse Area: Includes districts from Oswego to Sandy Creek to Syracuse to Auburn to Newark to Sodus, as well as those within this broad border.

Syracuse City: Schools within the Syracuse City School District.

*Candidates must fill out a separate NYC application. Further directions and a link to the NYC application will be available in the Google application.

Can I student teach in a different area than those listed?

No. C&I student teachers will only be placed in the 3 outlined designated areas.

Can I change the area where I wish to student teach?

You will need to submit a request in writing to change your area of preference for any pending placement. Except in extreme circumstances, placements that have already been confirmed prior to your appeal cannot be changed.

Can I change my placement?

The Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office works very hard to maintain and improve relations with our local schools so we can continue to find enough placements for every student teacher applicant. When a school and cooperating teacher agree to host a student teacher, it is important for the CPPO to maintain an order of reliability; therefore you cannot change your placement.

How and when will I be notified of my student teaching placement?

The Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office will notify you of your placement via email. Placements that are confirmed within 1-3 days prior to your start date will also be sent to you by email or phone call.

Is there anything I can do to speed up the placement process?

There is really nothing you can do to speed up the process. We are in constant contact with our cooperating schools and are working diligently to finalize placements. We ask that you be patient and wait until our office can complete arrangements for you.

I know several other people already have their placement but I am still waiting for mine.

What should I do?

Please be patient. Securing a placement is usually a complicated undertaking! The Clinical Practice and Partnerships Office works with a great number of candidates, teachers, and school administrators. Additionally, no school or teacher is required to take a student teacher, so we ask you to be patient while we work to complete your placement. If you email cppoffice@oswego.edu or stop by our office (175 Wilber Hall) to ask about your status, please give us your name, your program and concentration information so we can respond to you appropriately.

What should I do if I am called by the school to complete an Interview?

It is becoming more and more common for teachers and/or principals to request a student teacher to interview prior to accepting them for student teaching. If you are called for an interview, respond promptly to the request and treat the student teaching interview with the same professionalism that you would have at a formal job interview.

Is it OK to work part-time and/or take college classes while I'm student teaching?

Student teaching requires a full-time commitment on the part of the candidate, so normally no other courses are taken during this period of time. In addition, student teachers are discouraged from holding part-time, evening and weekend jobs. These added

demands can cut into time that should be spent planning and preparing lessons and materials and can diminish opportunities for involvement in afterschool meetings and extracurricular activities.

If I decide to defer student teaching for a semester, what do I need to do?

If you decide to defer student teaching for a semester, please notify the CPPO in writing as soon as possible. You will then need to reapply for student teaching for your chosen semester and resubmit updated application documents to the CPPO.

What should I do if I am sick or have an emergency?

You are required to attend student teaching everyday but in the event of absence or tardiness due to illness or other unavoidable emergency you must:

- Call your college supervisor, cooperating teacher and the school office as soon as possible but no later than one hour before school starts on the day of the absence.
- Arrange delivery to your cooperating teacher all materials that are necessary for instruction on the day of the absence.
- Follow school district policies for reporting and documenting teacher tardiness or absence to the school officials.